

Vieau. They are coached by Bob McKenney along with assistant coaches Lisa McKenney and Charlie Falgiatano. These boys are a source of pride to our community and should be commended for their hard work and dedication.

CELEBRATING GREECE'S 183RD
INDEPENDENCE DAY

HON. MAURICE D. HINCHEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 31, 2004

Mr. HINCHEY. Mr. Speaker, as a long time supporter and member of the Hellenic Caucus, I would like to recognize and congratulate the people of Greece on their Independence Day, which they celebrated last week. 183 years ago, the Greek people won their freedom and independence from the Ottoman Empire. This is a great event, not only for Greece, but for all countries because it represents and reaffirms our belief in self-determination and democracy.

Our nation is built on the principles of the ancient Greek philosophers. Our founding fathers looked to Greek political and philosophical ideals while forming our nation. Years later, we were able to return the favor when the United States independence movement helped fuel the strength of the Greek people in seeking their own sovereignty from a foreign empire.

I am also proud to say that the Greek community is especially prominent in New York State. We have the largest Greek Community in the U.S. and we are home to the Orthodox Archdiocese of America.

I am honored to join my colleagues in celebration of this significant achievement in history and to congratulate the Greek people on their independence day.

TRIBUTE TO ARMY SPECIALIST
ADAM FROEHLICH

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 31, 2004

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Army Specialist Adam Froehlich who was killed while serving our country in Baqubah, Iraq on March 25, 2004. He was a member of 2nd Platoon, Charlie Battery, 1st Battalion, 6th Field Artillery, a part of the 1st Infantry Division and stationed in Bamberg, Germany.

Specialist Froehlich was a true patriot who, deeply moved by the attacks of September 11th, joined the Army after graduating from Overbrook High School in Pine Hill, New Jersey. At Overbrook High School he was a varsity wrestler. After fulfilling his commitment to the Army, Specialist Froehlich planned to use the GI bill to attend college and become a gym teacher.

Specialist Froehlich's love of his country predated his enlistment in the Army. His decision to serve his country was a natural path

for him to take. Even at his young age, he understood the connection between the freedom that we all enjoy and the historical sacrifices of those in uniform.

Specialist Froehlich is survived by his parents Stephen and Rosemarie, his brothers Steve and Jeff, his sister April and his grandfather John, all of South Jersey. He will be laid to rest with full military honors on Saturday April 3, 2004 in Berlin, New Jersey.

I extend my deepest sympathy to the Froehlich family and express my immense gratitude for the heroic service of Specialist Adam Froehlich.

TRIBUTE TO CURTIS WILLIAMS,
SR.

HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 31, 2004

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, a few days ago, Curtis Williams, a great and patriotic American, passed away in Lenoir City, Tennessee.

Mr. Williams, or Curtis to almost everyone, was a City Councilman in Lenoir City and a former member of the Loudon County Commission. He served on many boards and committees and worked with numerous civic and charitable organizations. He loved people and obviously wanted to help as many as he could.

Curtis was not rich or famous, but much more importantly, he was a kind and good man. He loved his family first and his community and his Country next, and this shone through in everything he said and did.

This Nation is a better place today because of the life Curtis Williams led, and I want to commend and praise the work he did.

I want to also call to the attention of my colleagues and other readers of the RECORD the article about Curtis that was published by the Knoxville News Sentinel.

[From the Knoxville News Sentinel, Mar. 31, 2004]

COUNCILMAN'S DEATH LEAVES BIG HOLE IN LC
COMMUNITY

(By Ann Hinch)

Monday's presentation of a \$215,000 FEMA grant at Lenoir City Fire Station No. 1 promises all the hallmarks of an event Curtis Williams Sr. would've loved: his little city and his firefighters benefiting from much-needed federal funds, politics and old friends.

Sadly, the famously cheerful councilman will attend the April 5 presentation only in memory. Williams, 77, died of congestive heart failure at midnight March 15.

He'd been absent from most of the semi-monthly council meetings in the months preceding his death, wanting to attend but ultimately too ill and tired to do so. He would have especially enjoyed Monday's event, as he was also the city's fire commissioner and helped snag the FEMA grant.

"He'd get ready to come to the meetings, but at the last minute, he'd just be too tired," daughter Debbie Cook explained.

Cook, one of Williams' and wife Tiajaunia "Ty's" three children, said her father's doctor told the family in January that Williams didn't have long to live. In typical fashion,

rather than mourn his mortality, she said her father asked frankly about funeral plans, regaled with old stories and made the most of time with family during his last weeks.

"I remember telling him that last weekend, how when I was growing up I remember him always helping the 'little man,'" Cook recalled, adding with a laugh, "and he answered, 'Well, I was the little man!'"

"He saw himself as a true public servant. If someone called him asking for help to get a job, or a place to live, or food, he'd help them as much as he could."

Williams served on the city council from 1997 until his death, but was hardly a political neophyte. He spent 11 years on the Loudon County Commission until a heart attack forced him to leave in 1980 and also retire from his job as assistant plant manager with the local Charles H. Bacon Co. textile plant.

Taking a break from political office didn't mean a break in politics. An avid Democrat all his life, Williams volunteered for at least six boards, not including the committees he chaired and served on during his 18 years of elected office. And he even counted the occasional Republican among his political comrades, including Rep. JOHN J. DUNCAN Jr., and his father, the late Rep. John J. Duncan.

"It seemed almost every time me or my dad came to Loudon County, we would see him," recalled Duncan, whose father began campaigning for office there while the younger Duncan was in high school. "He was a real strong supporter of both of us."

"I think that he set a good example for anyone in public office. He had a heart for service and liked to help people."

Duncan will make the grant presentation.

Loudon County Attorney Harvey Sproul was county mayor while Williams served on the commission. He recalls the projects they worked on to modernize the county, including being one of the first Tennessee counties to institute planning and zoning in 1972.

"He was supportive of trying to get things done and trying to establish a foundation for future county growth," Sproul said. "He was almost unequaled in public service; he served on so many boards, and was very progressive."

Duncan had the most contact with Williams through veterans' organizations. Williams was proud of his three-year tour of duty in the Navy during World War II; Cook said Williams was proud to serve his country, to the point of having his legal guardians (he and his siblings were orphaned young and lived with relatives) help him lie about his age at 17 so he could join the Navy in 1943.

"They didn't ask for anything (age proof) back then," Cook said. "They just said, 'Do you want to fight?'" Williams helped storm the beach at Normandy on D-Day and was a gunner in the Pacific.

After the war, Williams returned to his job at Bacon, where he'd worked since he was a boy; he would work there 36 years. He married his childhood sweetheart, earned his GED, and attended classes at the University of Tennessee not toward a degree, but simply to learn more. Two of his three children—Cook and Curtis Williams Jr.—followed him into local politics (daughter Bernita Gamble did not). He left behind a large family, including seven grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

He also left a hole on the city council, where his term would have ended next April. Mayor Matt Brookshire, who is now responsible for appointing the position, said, "His presence here was missed for a long time, and he'll continue to be missed. He did enjoy (his work)."